

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gourlay (WO 02/078101).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 12-20.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the detailed indication that claims 4, 9, and 10 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the identified allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 10. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gourlay (WO 02/078101).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's position that Gourlay anticipates or makes obvious Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the identified allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 1, and hence dependent claims 1-20, are now in immediate condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gourlay be withdrawn.

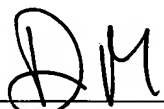
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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